

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 217918

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BAMAKO 3306 ACTION SECSTATE 29 AUG 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T BAMAKO 3306

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS3

TAGS: PFOR, UN, ML, RQ

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP ON PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE
OF 24

REF: STATE 203895

1. I CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE,
SEYDOU TRAORE, THIS MORNING, REVIEWED THE VOTE IN THE
COMMITTEE OF 24, MADE POINTS A, B, AND C OF REFTTEL, AND
ASKED TRAORE TO TRANSMIT MY DEMARCHE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

2. IN RESPONSE, TRAORE, WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING
A DEMARCHE, SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR VIEWS TO THE
GOVT. BUT THAT HE HAD CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS TO MAKE.

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FIRST, AS WE KNEW, IT HAD BEEN THE MALIAN DELEGATE

WHO HAD MODIFIED THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE TWO CLAUSES THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD WE CONSIDERED TO BE OBJECTIONABLE, THAT IS, THE REFERENCE TO OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AND THE QTE TRANSFER OF POWER END QTE TO THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. IN THE MALIAN VIEW, THE AMENDED RESOLUTION DID NOT BRING INTO QUESTION INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO NOR DID IT CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES. SINCE MALI WAS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE AMENDED RESOLUTION IT COULD HARDLY VOTE AGAINST ITS OWN RESOLUTION WITHOUT COMPLETELY DESTROYING ITS CREDIBILITY IN THE UNITED NATIONS. THE MALIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONSIDERED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SYRIAN RESOLUTION TO BE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME EVEN THOUGH AS A CO-SPONSOR THEY WERE UNABLE TO VOTE FOR ITS POSTPONEMENT. THUS, THE MALIAN VOTE, RATHER THAN BEING DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S. WAS SIMPLY A REASONABLE CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE AMENDED RESOLUTION.

3. TRAORE SAID THAT IT WAS REALLY AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT MALI HAD ALIGNED ITSELF WITH THE COMMUNIST BLOC. MALI VOTES IN THE UNITED NATIONS ACCORDING TO ITS OWN VIEWS; SOMETIMES IT JOINS A GROUP OF COUNTRIES FROM THE WEST, SOMETIMES IT IS IN COMPANY WITH COUNTRIES FROM THE EAST, AND SOMETIMES THERE IS A MIXTURE OF ALL COUNTRIES ON ANY IS UE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE FOUND POINT (C) TO BE SOMEWHAT STRONG. MALI CONSIDERS THAT IT IS UP TO THE GROUP OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT MALI HAS ABANDONED ITS POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. HE REITERATED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR DEMARCHE TO THE GOVT, AND IF THERE WERE ANY FURTHER RESPONSE HE WOULD LET ME KNOW.

4. WE THEN HAD A GENERAL DISCUSSION OVER WHETHER PUERTO RICO AS A COMMONWEALTH WAS IN FACT AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHETHER DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE UNITED NATIONS WAS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTEGRAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES. DURING THIS

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DISCUSSION, TRAORE SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT IN HIS VIEW WE THE UNITED STATES WERE ATTACKING THE PROBLEM IN THE WRONG WAY. HE SAID THAT ONCE AN ITEM WAS INSCRIBED ON THE AGENDA IT REMAINED THERE UNTIL IT WAS REMOVED. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD, THEREFORE, WORK TO HAVE THE PUERTO RICAN ITEM REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA RATHER THAN TRYING TO PREVENT DISCUSSION OF IT, BECAUSE OTHERWISE AT EVERY SESSION THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

COMMISSION WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RAISE THE ITEM
AND SOMEONE WOULD BE CERTAIN TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION
THEREON.

5. COMMENT: I HAVE THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE
MALIANS REALLY FELT THAT BY TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO
DELETE WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE OPERATIVE
CLAUSES OF THE ORIGINAL CUBAN RESOLUTION (BAMAKO 3112),
THEY HAD DONE US A FAVOR. I AM NOT AT ALL CERTAIN,
BUT THE TIMING RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT MALIAN
CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE SYRIAN RESOLUTION MAY HAVE TAKEN
PLACE BEFORE INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM BAMAKO,
AND THE MALIANS FOUND THEMSELVES OUT ON A LIMB FROM
WHICH THEY COULD NOT CRAWL BACK. AT ONE POINT IN OUR
SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION, TRAORE
COMMENTED THAT THE MALIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED
NATIONS HAD IN THE PAST BEEN GIVEN VIRTUAL CARTE BLANCHE,
BUT THAT HE WAS GOING TO RECTIFY THAT SITUATION AND
GET THEM UNDER CONTROL END QTE. THIS MORNING HE
SAID THAT ONE SIMPLY COULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM A FORMAL
POSITION WITHOUT EITHER CALLING INTO QUESTION THE
AUTHORITY OF A COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE OR APPEARING TO
BE A COUNTRY THAT TOOK POSITIONS WITHOUT DUE
CONSIDERATION.

AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SEYDOU TRAORE HAS RECENTLY
RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WHERE HE SERVED FOR SEVERAL
YEARS AS MALIAN AMBASSADOR. WHILE WE SHOULD NOT
OVERESTIMATE HIS INFLUENCE ON RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE
OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, I BELIEVE TRAORE MAY BE ABLE
TO MAKE SOME HEADWAY IN EXPLAINING TO MALIAN LEADERSHIP
THAT UNITED STATES, UNLIKE MALI, DOES INDEED TAKE
UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS SERIOUSLY AND THAT MALIAN
ACTION ON PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION HAS AFFECTED

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OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN NEGATIVE WAY.
MCGUIRE
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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